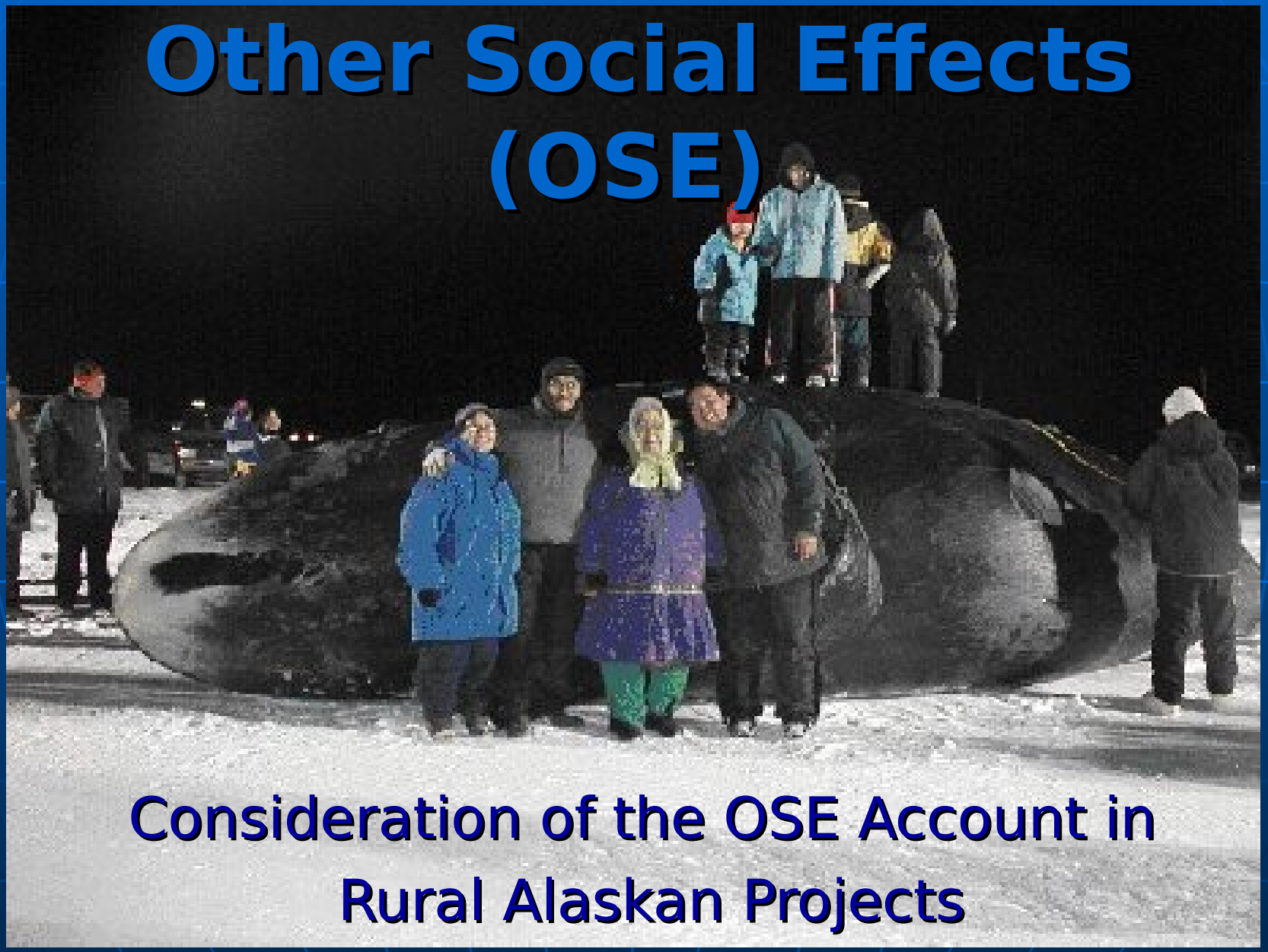
# Other Social Effects (OSE)



Consideration of the OSE Account in Rural Alaskan Projects

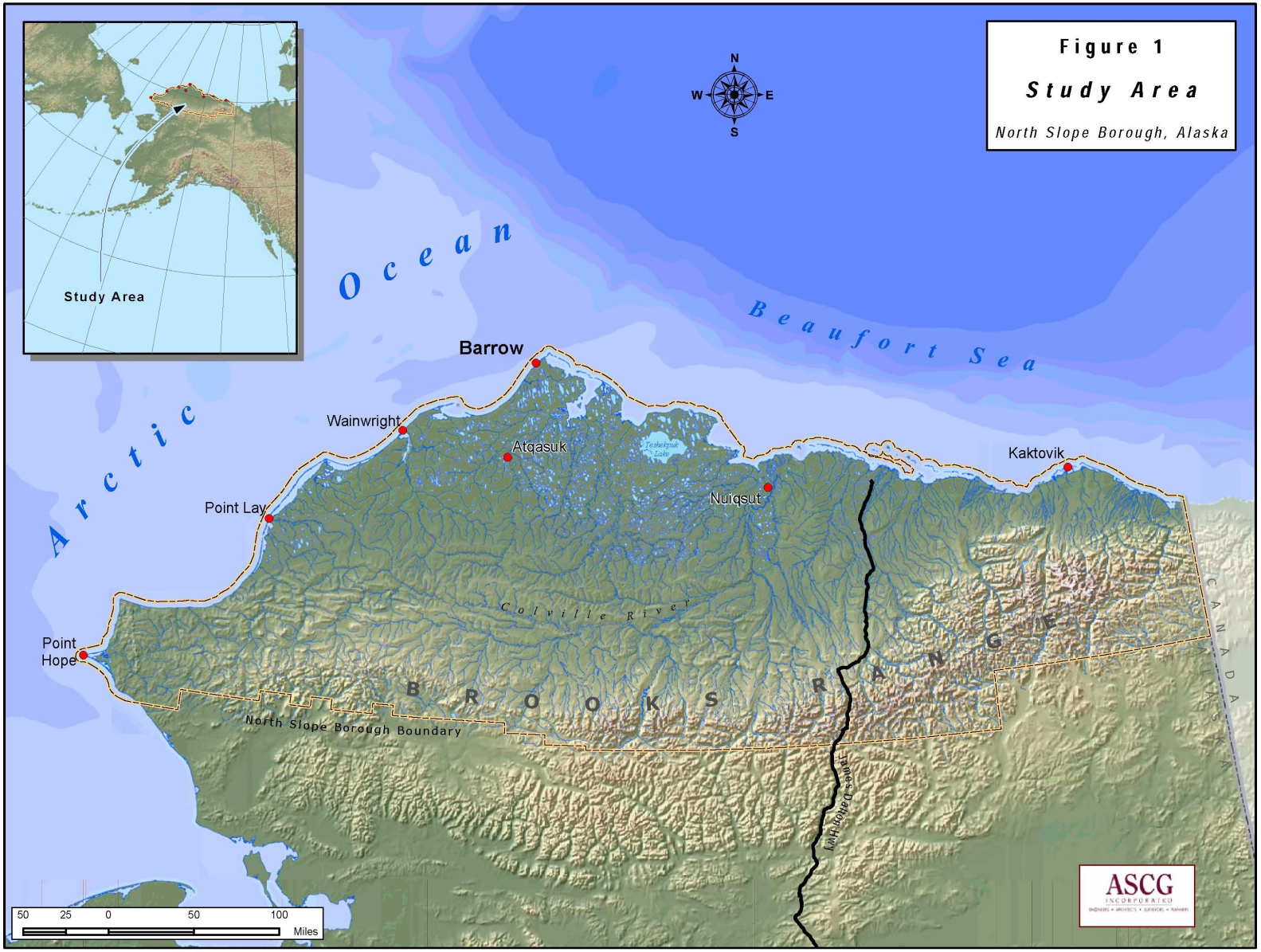


Figure 1
Study Area
North Slope Borough, Alaska
Study Area
Arctic Ocean
Beaufort Sea
Barrow
Wainwright
Atqasuk
Point Lay
Nuiqsut
Kaktovik
Point Hope
Colville River
BROOKS RANGE
North Slope Borough Boundary
Dalton Hwy
CANADA
ALASKA
N
W
E
S
50 25 0 50 100
Miles
ASCG
INCORPORATED

# Coastal Erosion in Alaska

## Background

- Polar Ice Cap Shrinking – Ice Pack Receding from Shore, Leaving Open Water Later into the Fall.
- Fall Storms occurring more frequently with greater intensity.
- Erosion Threatens Homes, Utilities, Roads, Water Supply, Sewage Lagoons, Cultural Sites
- Barrow is the Borough seat.  Provides numerous services for other Borough communities.
  - Hospital
  - Search and Rescue
  - Other government services (Law Enforcement, Fire Support, Medevac)

# OSE Guidance in ER 1105-2-100

- "Other Social Effects reflect a highly complex set of relationships and interactions between inputs and outputs of a plan and the social and cultural setting in which these are received and acted upon."
- Not Monetized
- Categories of OSE
  - *Urban and community impacts*
  - *Life, health and safety factors*
  - *Displacement Long-term productivity*
  - *Effects on emergency preparedness.*
  - *Other*

# NED and OSE Effects

- Effects at Barrow and other communities are a mix of NED and OSE.
- NED = Damages to homes and infrastructure.
- OSE = impacts to health, safety, emergency preparedness, community cohesion, standard of living
- OSE at Barrow affects other communities as well.

# Subsistence Economy

- Subsistence is their Daily Work
  - Whaling, Fishing, Hunting & Gathering
- Harvest Shared with extended Family and others in Community
- No Cash Exchanged
- NED Value based on Basket of Substitute Goods
- High Cultural Value is Not Monetized

# OSE Considered in Plan Formulation

- Non-Structural Plans
  - Community Relocation
    - Possible neg. impacts to Subsistence
  - Emergency Preparedness Plans
- Structural
  - Measures that reduce interruptions to essential services
  - Measures to facilitate increased subsistence harvest

# OSE Challenges

- Non-monetary, Not included in BCR. Practically Speaking, This leaves OSE out of the Budgeting Decision.
- High NED Costs, Insufficient NED Benefits make OSE very significant for project support.
- In a non-cash economy, non-monetary benefits take on even greater importance.
- PDT Response:
  - Scenario Analysis
  - Matrix of effects
  - Evaluate for Significance ??

# The Way Ahead

- OSE effects continue to be captured for EIS.
- Role in Plan Formulation, Economic Analysis and Study Recommendation is Unclear, but EC 409 opens the door.
- Remains a Work in Progress – Study Completion scheduled for FY07

# QUESTIONS?